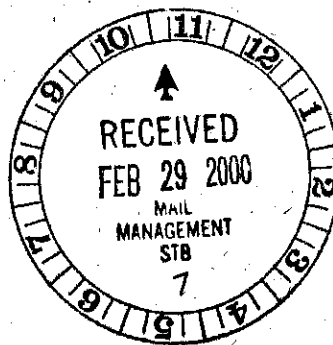




IPB

IPB International Inc.
ISO 9002



Mascouche, February 25th 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB),

Office of the Secretary,
Case Control Unit,
Attn : STB Ex Parte No. 582,
1925 K Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.,
U.S.A.
20423-0001

Attention : Mr Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Sir,

IPB International Inc. is a company that is diversified in the lumber product industry.

We own 5 different facilities in Canada and in the U.S., that are specialising in manufacturing of wooden poles, railway ties, bridge timber, softwood and hardwood lumber. In fact we are taking this opportunity to include some information regarding our products for your perusal.

Since we utilise on a regular bases the service of the railway companies, approximately 300 to 350 cars yearly, to move some of our material to and from the U.S. and Canada, we would like to submit our comments on items that will be raised at the March 8th 2000 audience in regards with Ex Parte 582.

We are requesting that the STB concentrate their attention on the question to know if the regrouping of CN-BNSF is to the advantage of the shippers and their customers instead of the potential downstream effects. We believe that the project CN-BNSF should be analyse mainly on the intrinsic value and, that if any future request from other transportation merger should be evaluated in the same fashion.

The time to present a regrouping project such as the CN-BNSF should not be the principal question presently, but should probably be the quality of service to the shippers

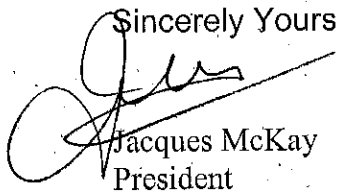
and their customers. Problem that have arisen lately with some mergers were not really associated with the timing, but mainly to the management of some of these merger.

In consequence we feel that the STB should concentrate their attention on the service aspect of a regrouping such as the proposed CN-BNSF and on any future merger that could occur in the future.

The STB has put in place an integrated procedure to evaluate any transaction in the railway industry and to protect the interest of the public. In following the establish procedure, we are positive that it will proceed at an equitable evaluation of the proposed CN-BNSF regrouping. We believe that the STB cannot allow other railways to use their procedure to protect their own interest instead of the shippers and their customers.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion.

Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jacques McKay', written over the printed name and title.

Jacques McKay
President

cc : Jim Guivdnan
François Alexandre